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12th February 2024
ACP 2014-04

██████████
Airspace Regulator (Technical)
Airspace, ATM & Aerodromes
Civil Aviation Authority
Aviation House,
Gatwick
RH6 0YR

Dear ██████████,

Inverness ACP-2014-04 Implementation Date Change Request

Further to our ongoing dialogue relating to the Inverness ACP final submission being considered, HIAL understands that it is required to provide the CAA with an updated proposed implementation date for consideration and agreement by the CAA. HIAL notes that an ACP of this type will have to be implemented during one of the four yearly NAS builds. At present, we understand these are scheduled for 28th November 2024 (AIRAC 12/24) and 20th March 2025 (AIRAC 03/25).

HIAL originally proposed an implementation of the revised Airspace structure for AIRAC 05/24; however, after recent engagement with the CAA and due to delays encountered with the designs of the RNP arrivals, HIAL has realised that there is no possibility of achieving this date. Having also carefully reviewed the ACP project schedule and revisited and updated the ACP Safety Case, HIAL has identified that additional safety work is also required including slight adjustments to some route designs within the existing proposed controlled airspace structure. Work to address the route designs has commenced to ensure containment of routes; however, it is understood by HIAL that time will be required for assessment and approval by the CAA IFP Regulator. In addition, once reviewed, the routes will require flight validation which will also take time and HIAL does not expect the IFP element of the ACP process to be completed until September 2024 subject to the capacity of the CAA IFP Regulator.

Once the route designs have been flight validated and the ACP has been approved, HIAL will be required to ensure that all ATCOs are appropriately trained and qualified through CAA oversight and engagement. Training and validation of ATCOs and publication of the routes will require approx. 10 weeks and due to the AIRAC submission dates to AIS, HIAL would not be able to meet a submission to AIS during September 2024 to meet AIRAC 12/24.

To mitigate any risk and ensure the ACP can meet a NAS build AIRAC, HIAL has reviewed the Project schedule and considers that it would be able to meet AIRAC 03/25 on 20th March 2025. Implementation on this date will be subject to IFP regulatory requirements being met and approved and the controller training plan and process being approved by the CAA ATS Inspector. We believe that we have allocated sufficient time within the programme schedule to ensure that those elements are met to enable a submission to AIS on 22nd November 2024.

This proposed delay to implementation ensures that safety has remained at the forefront of the HIAL application and should enable a significant de-risk in the delivery of the ACP and enable Inverness to ensure that the new procedures and safe and flyable and all ATCOs are appropriately qualified. The delay will also enable HIAL to communicate with all regional airspace users and the changes made should affect less users due to implementation during what is historically a quieter aircraft movement period.

We appreciate that this ACP has been in the system and on-going for a significant period; however, we would be grateful of your consideration of our delay request to assist us in delivering what we consider will be a considerable improvement in safety for all airspace users operating both into and in the surrounding areas of Inverness Airport.

Should you have any queries regarding our request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Inverness ACP Project Lead